Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ADDRESSING THE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS

SHOUT
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SHARE

FAO assists Member Countries to prevent and reduce human-wildlife conflicts by approaching it as an interrelated social and technical issue, in order to improve food security, livelihoods and health of rural populations, and help them sustainably manage their natural resources.

WHAT IS HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT?

Human-wildlife conflict is defined as struggles that emerge when the presence or behaviour of wildlife poses actual or perceived, direct and recurring threat to human interests or needs, leading to disagreements between groups of people and negative impacts on people and /or wildlife.

DIRECT CAUSES

AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION

URBANIZATION

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

WILDLIFE POPULATIONS GROWTH AND RANGE EXPANSION

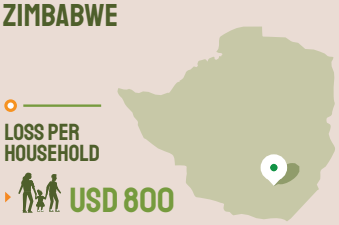
Human-wildlife conflict occurs in areas where wildlife and human populations overlap, including in the borders of protected areas, and are detrimental to both humans and wildlife. The causes of human-wildlife conflict are varied and site-specific.

TYPES OF CONFLICTS AND INVOLVED ANIMALS

DESTRUCTION OF CROPS	ATTACKS ON LIVESTOCK	HUMAN DEATH AND INJURIES	ROAD ACCIDENTS	TRANSMISSION OF ZOONOTIC DISEASES
ELEPHANTS	**LIONS**	**CROCODILES**	**DEERS**	**PRIMATES**
PRIMATES	WOLVES	TIGERS	ANTELOPES	RODENTS
WILD BOARS	LEOPARDS	BEARS	MOOSES	WILD BOARS
BIRDS	LYNXES	ELEPHANTS	ELKS	BIRDS
HIPPOPOTAMUSES	HYENAS	LIONS	COYOTES	FOXES
RODENTS	JAGUARS	HIPPOPOTAMUSES	WILD BOARS	JACKALS

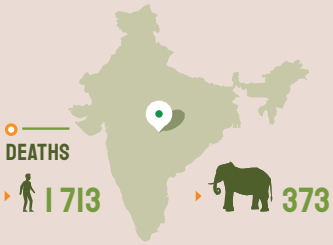
CASES IN POINT

SOUTHERN ZIMBABWE



Between October 2014 and October 2016, an annual economic loss of agro-based communities of Mutema-Musikavanhu was about USD 800 per household due to crops raiding and livestock predation.

INDIA



From 2015 to 2018 more than 1 713 people and 373 elephants died due to human-elephant conflict.

UNITED STATES

From 1 to 2 million of large animals are hit every year on highways, resulting in about 200 human deaths and close to 30 000 injuries, with an annual cost of over USD 8 billion.

- **Human-wildlife conflict involves a huge variety of species and occur in a diversity of situations, inflicting direct and indirect, tangible and intangible consequences.**
- **Effective management of human-wildlife conflict is crucial for ensuring food security, strengthening conservation efforts, promoting rural development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.**

KEY MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

1

INCREASING BENEFITS OF WILDLIFE

Tourism, recreation, revenue-sharing

2

LIVESTOCK AND CULTIVATION

Cropping cycle, guarding, protection collars, vaccination

3

BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION

People relocation, education, awareness, trainings

4

LAND USE PLANNING

Unpalatable crops, habitat modification, prey and ecosystem management

5

NON-LETHAL CONTROL

Translocation, disease management, fertility control

6

ECONOMIC

Compensation, insurance, alternative income

7

PHYSICAL SEPARATION

Fences, zoning, deterrents, repellents

8

GOVERNANCE

Laws, policy, stakeholder engagement, participatory planning

LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Human-wildlife conflict management strategies must be tailored to fit the particular social, political and cultural characteristics of the communities being affected.

INTERCONNECTED BEEHIVES IN KENYA

From **2012 to 2015**, after deploying **131** interconnected beehives around **10 trial farms** next to **Tsavo East National Park**, out of **253 elephants** that entered the farming area, **80%** of them were kept out of the areas protected by the beehive fences.

JAGUAR ECOTOURISM IN BRAZIL

In **2015**, in the **Brazilian Pantanal**, the benefits accrued from jaguar ecotourism represented an annual revenue **56 times higher** than the annual livestock depredation caused within cattle ranches.

Successful management of human-wildlife conflict requires an interdisciplinary set of approaches and an in-depth understanding of its social, political and cultural root causes, and must take into account the particular values structure of the communities being affected.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE TO REDUCE AND PREVENT HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

1. TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL ROOT CAUSES
2. FORMULATE CASE-SPECIFIC POLICIES AND STRATEGIES
3. DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED LAND-USE PLANNING SYSTEM
4. EMPOWER AFFECTED LOCAL COMMUNITIES FROM THE START
5. BUILD EFFECTIVE EARLY-WARNING SYSTEMS
6. SET UP RIGOROUS DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS
7. CREATE ROBUST MONITORING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORKS
8. ESTABLISH MULTI-SECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS FROM THE OUTSET

Forestry division - Wildlife and protected areas management

http://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife

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